

**Abstract of the Disclosure**

5 The present invention relates to an aromatic polyester composition for making stretch blow molded containers with improved strain hardening. The polyester composition according to the invention exhibits a low DEG content, a natural stretch ratio of  $< 10$ , a half time of crystallization of  $>150$  sec at  $200^{\circ}\text{C}$  and comprises a sulfo-modified copolymer. Compared to polyesters of the prior art, the polyester of the present invention exhibits superior stretching characteristics, such as a lower natural stretch ratio (NSR), which allows for production of small PET bottles via thinner and longer parisons. Such thinner and longer parisons improve the production of small containers due to shorter cooling cycles.

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